

FISCAL NOTE

SB 2001 - HB 1993

February 26, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Revises medical malpractice damage provisions and modifies contingent fee caps, requirements for expert testimony and release of medical information. Plaintiffs in medical malpractice actions are required to file an affidavit of a licensed health care professional that provides at least one negligent act or omission that is the factual basis for each claim.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – If malpractice insurance premium rates are reduced, the TennCare program and the state health insurance plan could experience more moderate cost increases in the long term.

Assumptions:

- The impact of medical malpractice award changes cannot be determined. Such changes may moderate the growth of malpractice insurance premium rates and savings to TennCare would depend upon the amount of savings passed on by providers.
- Any impact in caseloads for the state trial courts would not be significant and can be absorbed within existing judicial resources.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director